

P01-164 - VOLATILE INHALANT DEPENDENCE AND INTOXICATION AMONG A SAMPLE OF EGYPTIAN STREET CHILDREN

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One hundred Subject attending drop out units for street children were investigated using: (1) Short interview sheet for street children,(2) Inhalant Dependence and Intoxication Checklist for Street children,(3) Inhalant Dependence and Intoxication diagnostic criteria DSM IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders-4th edition) (4) urine screen for hippuric acid. The study aims at identification of common manifestations of volatile inhalants (glue, fuel, and thinner) dependence and intoxication among a sample of Egyptian street children. Research subjects were using volatile inhalants (100%) with variable amounts and sometimes in combination with other substances such as: Nicotine and Hashish (25%) and oral drugs (cough sedatives) (15%). According to DSM IV criteria, inhalant dependence and intoxication were reported among all research subjects. Dizziness, in-coordination, lethargy, slurred speech, tremors, blurred vision and euphoria were the commonly reported signs of intoxication. Street children diagnosed as intoxicated were vulnerable to many disadvantages. They are using inhalants despite their knowledge of its harmful effects on physical and psychological wellbeing. There is a great need to develop integrated rehabilitation medical services directed towards such vulnerable individuals especially detection, detoxification and mental health services.